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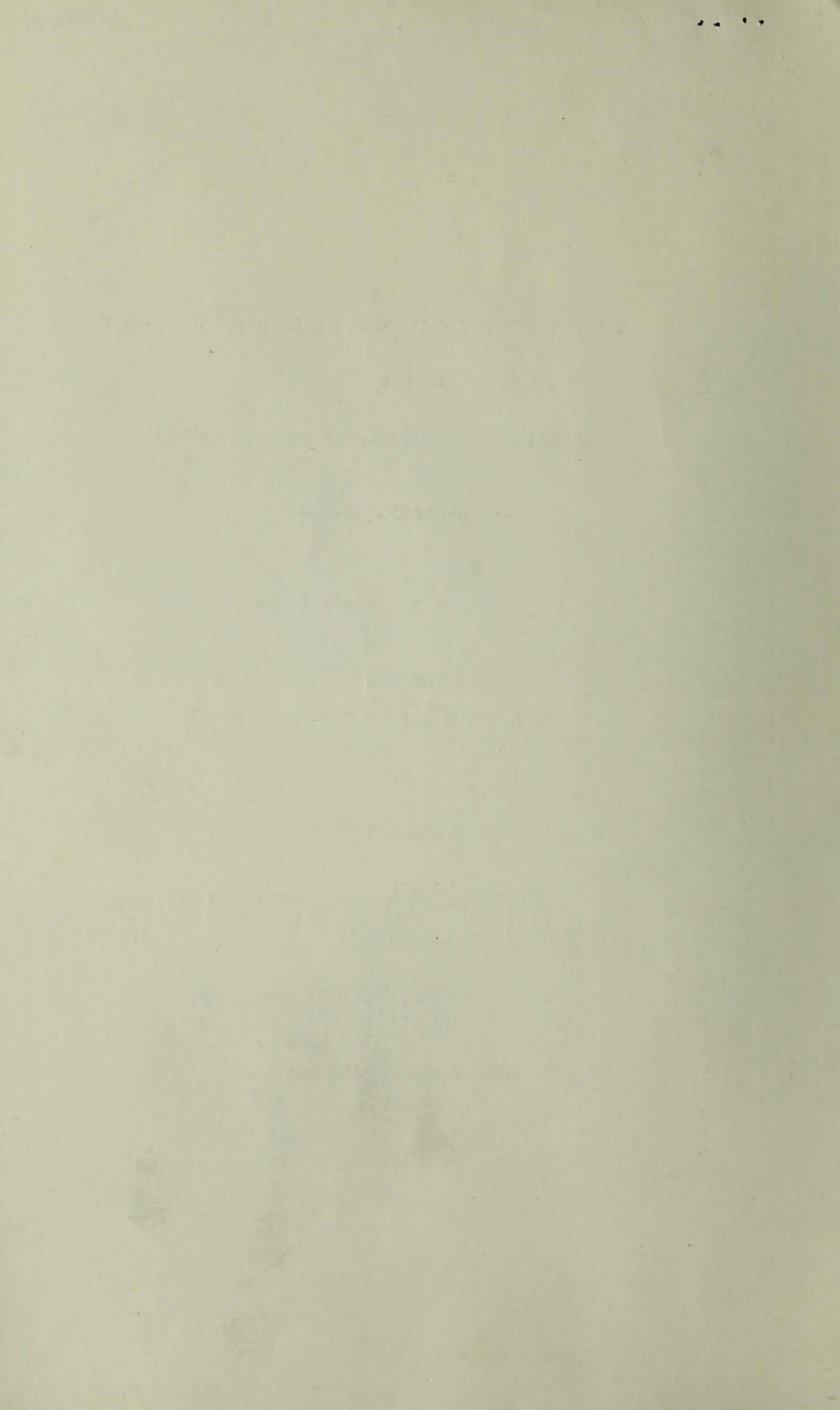
of

H E A L T H

for

1943

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CHESTERTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Department,
County Hall,
Hobson Street,
Cambridge.

June, 1944

To the Chairman and Members of the
Chesterton Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present for your consideration my Annual Report for the Year 1943 on the Health, Sanitary Conditions and Vital Statistics of the Chesterton Rural District. There are no immediately urgent matters to which it is necessary to draw attention. The general health of the population has been well maintained.

ARTHUR MORGAN

Medical Officers of Health.

- 1 -

General Statistics and Social Conditions

Area	111,692 acres
Number of Parishes	53
Rateable Value	£136,215
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£550 approx.
Number of inhabitable houses according to rate books	10,097

The District is agricultural in character and the principal occupations are those associated with farming, fruit growing, jam making etc.

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year.

Live Births :-	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	515	256	259
Illegitimate	25	10	15
Totals	540	266	274

Birth Rate per thousand estimated population 15.8
 " " " population (England & Wales) 16.5

Stillbirths :-	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	19	14	5
Illegitimate	1	-	1
Totals	20	14	6

Rate per thousand total (live and stillbirths) 35.7

Deaths	Total	Male	Female
- - - - -	355	176	179

Death Rate per thousand estimated population 10.4
 " " " population (England & Wales) 12.1

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :-

- (a) Puerperal Sepsis Nil
- (b) Other Puerperal Causes Nil

Rate per thousand total (live and stillbirths) Nil
 Deaths of infants under one year of age:-

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	12	8	4
Illegitimate	3	1	2
Totals	15	9	6

(cont. over)

Death Rate of infants under one year of age:-

All infants per thousand live births	27.8
Legitimate infants per thousand legitimate live births	23.3
Illegitimate infants per thousand illegiti- mate live births	120.0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	64
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Influenza (all ages)	9
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1

Birth and Death Rates for the last five years:-

	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942
Birth Rate	12.5	13.7	12.0	12.5	16.6
Death Rate	10.4	12.6	15.8	14.1	11.6

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Public Health Officers of the Authority:-

Medical Officer of Health - A whole time Officer who also acts for two other Rural Districts in the County.

Sanitary Inspectors - Normally the staff consists of a Chief Sanitary Inspector and two others. The two Additional Inspectors, however, are both serving with H.M. Forces and the temporary Assistant Inspector has left the service of the Council. The Chief Inspector (Mr. E.B. Newman, M.S.I.A., A.M.I.S.E.) is therefore working single-handed.

Laboratory Facilities:-

Chemical analyses and bacteriological examinations of water etc. are made by the Public Analyst at Cambridge. Specimens for bacteriological examination in connection with infectious diseases are sent to the Emergency Public Health laboratory Cambridge. Samples of milk are examined at the School of Agriculture, University of Cambridge.

Ambulance Facilities:-

The services of the Red Cross or Police ambulances at Cambridge can be obtained when required for cases of accident or serious illness. Cases of infectious disease are removed by the ambulance from the Borough Isolation Hospital.

Hospitals:-

Cases of infectious diseases are treated at the Cambridge Borough Isolation Hospital by agreement. The Oakington Isolation Hospital was closed in February 1938 and has since been taken over by the Cambridgeshire County Council for use as a Smallpox Hospital.

So far as General Hospitals are concerned, Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge deals with the majority of cases from this area.

The only Hospitals in the area are the Mental Hospital at Fulbourn and that for the treatment of Tuberculosis in connection with Papworth Colony.

Nursing in the Home:-

No alteration.

Clinics and Treatment Centres:-

No alteration.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The following is a Summary of the inspections carried out during 1943 and represents the work of the Chief Sanitary Inspector only:-

	1943
Total inspections recorded	2,216
Inspections under Milk and Dairies Order	512
Slaughterhouse inspections	7
Bakehouse Inspections	69
Infectious cases removed	42
Houses fumigated	76
Samples of Water taken	63
Inspection of Food Premises	213
Inspections under the Factories Acts	93
Visits re complaints	475
Inspections under the Housing Acts	237
Schools inspected	19
Miscellaneous Visits	410

HOUSING

Number of houses erected by the Local Authority - nil
(the erection of 12 cottages for rural workers was commenced during the year under review).

Number of houses built, or in course of erection by private enterprise 4

Number of houses repaired by means of grants under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts nil.

Summary of action taken under the Housing Acts during the year:-

Houses inspected	209
Re-inspections made	28
Demolition Orders made	nil
Houses demolished	3
Undertakings (Sec. 11) Accepted	2
Houses made fit	12

Since the passing of the Housing Act 1930 the following action has been taken:-

Houses demolished	377
" " (Voluntarily)	8
Houses in respect of which undertakings (Sec. 11) have been accepted	51
Houses (or parts) closed	4
Houses made fit by formal action	15
Houses made fit by informal action	482

(Note: These figures are totals up to 31/4/44.)

Owing to the scarcity of building labour in the rural areas very little progress has been made with the general repair of houses during the year, and action has for the most part been confined to essential maintenance work. In fact, action has been taken more often under the Public Health Act rather than under the Housing Acts. It should be also noted that owing to staff shortage much repair work carried out as a result of informal action has gone unrecorded.

In October a survey of all working class houses in poor condition was commenced with the object of ascertaining the likely programme of demolition or reconditioning in connection with Post War Planning. Progress in this connection must be slow with the present available staff.

WATER SUPPLY

Mains supplies in the Area are derived from 6 waterworks, i.e., three works owned by the Council, two private Companies and one Joint Water board. Of the 53 Parishes in the area, 35 have a constant piped supply in some form or another, two additional parishes (Caldecote and Quy) being supplied during the year. The following parishes are in urgent need of an improved supply and a shortage is anticipated in the coming Summer months.

Croxton.	Hardwick
Eltisley	Lolworth
Graveley	Papworth St. Agnes.

Steps are being taken to provide an improved supply to Graveley and water is being carted to part of Hardwick parish.

Chlorination.

With the exception of two works serving single parishes, all mains supplies are chlorinated.

Sampling

The public supplies are regularly sampled for chemical analysis and bacteriological examination. The results have been satisfactory throughout the year.

Samples taken for Analysis (Public and Private Supplies):-

Samples report satisfactory	49
Samples reported unfit	5

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

There are no public or privately owned baths or pools in the District which are open to the public.

SHOPS ACT, 1934.

There are 287 shops of various categories on the register and more than half are in conjunction with private dwellinghouses. In these cases the available sanitary accommodation serves both premises. Steps are taken to ensure that, as far as possible, the provisions of the Act are complied with. 176 visits to shops were recorded during the year and no certificates of exemption from the provision of sanitary conveniences were issued.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS AND CAMPING SITES

There is a fairly large seasonal influx of caravan-dwellers into the area during the fruit picking season, but their stay is of short duration, and although no licences are required the sites are visited. No applications for licences were received during the year.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS AND OTHER VERMIN

The District remains reasonably free from infestation and few complaints have been received. The incidence of Scabies was extremely small and little action was necessary during the year. Where premises are found to be infested with bugs, the remedy found to be most effective is treatment of all woodwork with Zaldecide and/or subsequent fumigation with block disinfectants of the sulphur type. Where special difficulties arise the employment of a firm specialising in the use of Hydrogen Cyanide is advised.

Visits and enquiries re verminous persons or premises	43
Premises fumigated for Bugs	19
" " Fleas	1
" " Cockroaches	1
" " Scabies	1

Arrangements have been made with the Cambridgeshire County Council for the reception and treatment of verminous persons or bedding etc. at the County Infirmary.

RODENT DESTRUCTION.

Under the new Infestation Order, 1943 the Council is responsible for the destruction of rats and mice on non-agricultural premises, and a comprehensive survey of the area was carried out as directed by the Ministry of Food. Steps are being taken to secure the services of two whole-time ratcatchers. The County Council remain the authority under the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Acts, and the War Agricultural Committee is carrying out work on agricultural premises. It will be seen therefore that from an administration point of view the position is somewhat confused.

DRAINAGE AND CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

House drains new or repaired	19
Closet Accommodation new or improved	11

Frequent visits have been paid to the sewage disposal plants on military sites and in two cases new plants were installed as a result of informal action by the Department.

SCHOOLS

As a result of the survey of Schools carried out in 1942 improvements have been effected in a number of cases. Negotiations are in progress for improvements at certain other Schools.

No. of visits to Schools	19
Heating arrangements improved	1
Additional ground space provided	1
Improved water supply	1

SCAVENGING

Little alteration has taken place during the year. 23 parishes now have some form of collection, but with the exception of Histon and Impington which have a weekly general collection, improvement is very desirable especially in the more Urban parishes.

General House Refuse.

No. of parishes with Weekly collection	2
No. of parishes with Fortnightly collection	1

Unburnable Refuse

No. of parishes with Fortnightly collection	1
No. of parishes with Monthly collection	4
No. of parishes with Quarterly collection	7
No. of parishes with $\frac{1}{2}$ yearly collection	4
No. of parishes with Annual collection	4

Disposal is by controlled tipping. The Department is not responsible for the collection of Salvage.

In one large parish the collection of night soil from houses with limited ground space is undertaken by private contract.

Arrangements have been made whereby cesspools can be emptied mechanically by private contract.

INSPECTION OF FOOD AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD PREMISES

Milk Supply

A good proportion of the Inspector's time has been devoted to inspections under the Milk and Dairies Orders, and as will be seen from the appended table, improvements in the structural condition of cowsheds and dairies continue to be made. The conditions under which milk is produced still leave much to be desired and satisfactory improvement can only be effected by the introduction of stronger legislation. It is very desirable that the Local Authority should have some discretion in the registration of milk producers, and definite standards of cleanliness prescribed for both milk and utensils.

Wholesale Producers registered	197
Retail Producers registered	60
Wholesale and Retail Producers registered	26
Retail Purveyors only	9
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	292
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The Cambridgeshire County Council administer the Milk (Special Designations) Orders and included in the above figures are 87 "Accredited" producers and 19 holding "Tuberculin-Tested" licences

Inspections carried out	512
Informal Notices served	193

Since the introduction of the National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme a high proportion of milk produced is frequently sampled and sampling by the Public Health Department is only carried out for special investigations.

Improvements carried out as a result of informal action:-

New Cowsheds constructed	13
Cowsheds improved	8
New drainage	8
Yards improved	5
New sterilizers installed	2
Water laid on or supply improved	5
New Dairies built	16
Dairies improved	1
New Coolers provided	5

BAKEHOUSES

No. on register	24
Inspections made	69
Notices served	2
Notices complied with	2

Improvements effected:-

Water laid on	1
New sink and drainage	2
Improved water supply	1
New dough machine	1

Preserved Food Premises

No. on register	29
Inspections made	21

Cleansing and limewashing were carried out without the service of notices and most premises are very little used at present.

A new sewage disposal plant was installed at one large cooking centre during the year.

Meat and Other Foods

In 1939 the number of slaughterhouses in the area was as follows:-

Licenced Slaughterhouses	8
Registered Slaughterhouses	22
Knackers Yards	2

The operation of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 with regard to these premises was suspended in view of the Livestock (Restriction on Slaughtering) Order, 1940 under which all private slaughtering in the area was discontinued. All meat at the present time comes from Government slaughterhouses and Depots in Cambridge. The supervision of butchers premises and vehicles continues to receive attention and frequent visits are paid to butchers' shops for the purpose of examining the meat.

It became necessary during the year to draw the attention of the authorities once more to the unsatisfactory manner in which meat was being transported to the rural areas. As a result of a conference with the Ministry of War Transport and other interested parties a considerable improvement was effected.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933

Licences to slaughter renewed	nil
New licences granted	nil
Total on Register	31

Food Premises (Butchers' Shops etc.)

Visits paid	239
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Offensive Trades

there

Apart from two licenced Knackers Yards are no offensive trades in the area. The knackers yards are periodically visited but little trade is carried out at the present time, and no complaints of nuisance have been received.

UNSTABLE FOOD

Most of the foodstuffs condemned as unfit for human consumption were tinned goods which, owing to war time hazards and restriction on packing materials, had been damaged in transit or storage. The condemned goods were of such varied character and quantities that no useful purpose would be served in attempting to summarise the work, and, in any case, a full list would be too lengthy for this report.

Where ever possible condemned goods were utilised for animal feeding etc. under the supervision of the Food Salvage Officer.

The destination of all condemned foodstuffs consigned into the area for manufacturing or animal feeding purposes was checked.

FACTORIES (Excluding Bakehouses).

A summary of the work carried out under the Factories Acts is appended below:-

No. of Factories with Mechanical Power	43
No. of Factories without mechanical power	20
Inspections carried out	24
Written Notices served	4
Notification of Outworkers received	2
Infected premises	nil

As a result of informal action new closet accommodation was provided to three premises during the year.

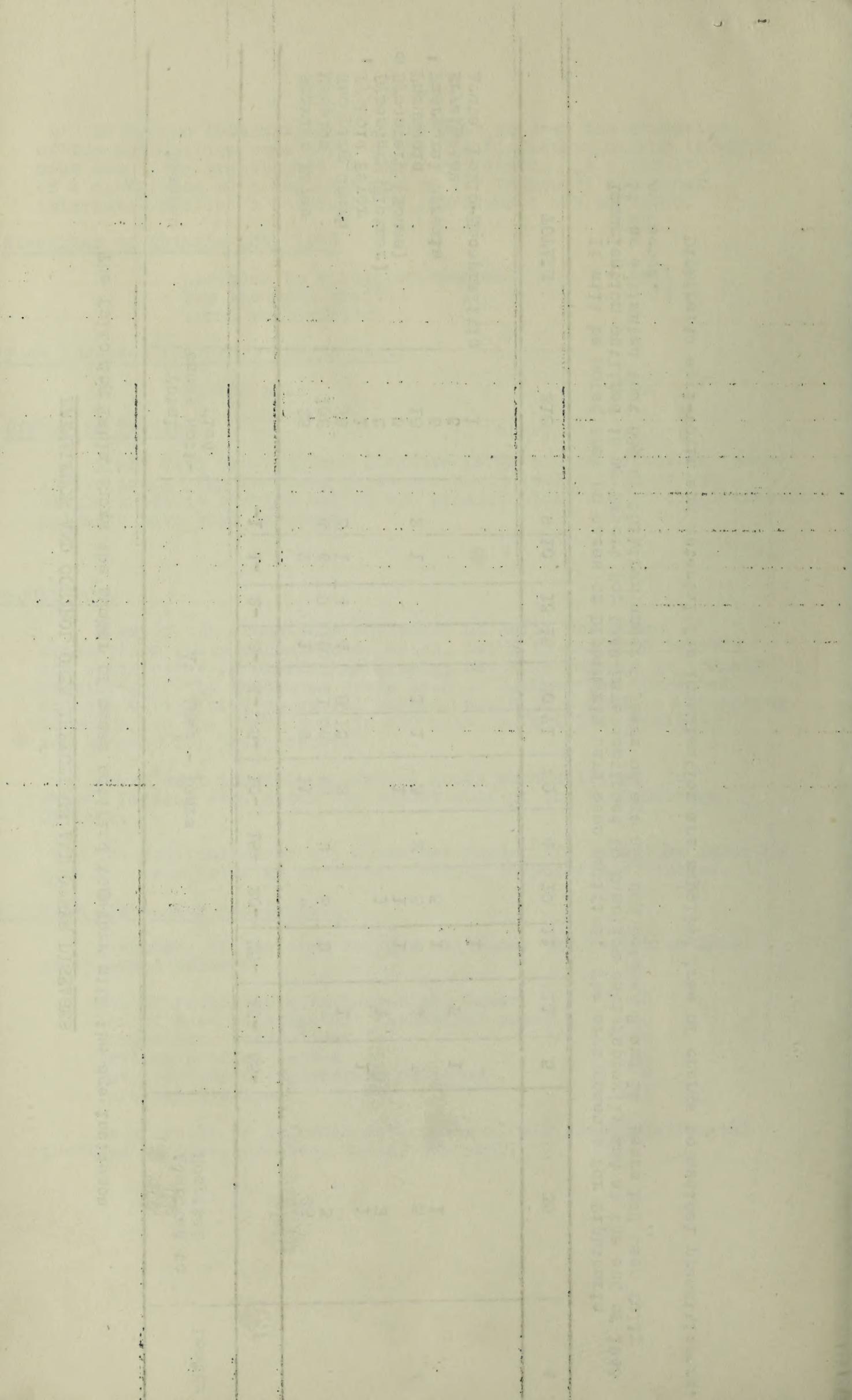
PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The following Table shows the number of cases notified together with the age incidence

Disease	Total cases noti- fied	At Ages - Years												Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
		-1-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65-		
Scarlet Fever															
Measles	25	2	9	11	11	9	11	2	5	2					
Whooping Cough	108	4	6	10	11	46	15	2	5	1	23				
Typhoid Fever	38	3	1	4	8	15	5				3				
Dysentery (Flexner)	1														
Pneumonia	2														
Puerperal Pyrexia	5														
Erysipelas	18	2	1												
Acute Polio-Encephalitis	6														
	1														
TOTALS	218	9	10	13	15	20	71	30	4	19	11	11	5	35	4

It will be noted that no cases of Diphtheria have been notified. The arrangements for Diphtheria immunisation outlined in my Report for 1942 have continued to function satisfactorily and at the end of 1943 it was estimated that 68% of children under 5 years of age and 64% between 5 and 15 years had been fully protected.

Diphtheria anti-toxin and material for immunisation are supplied free of charge to medical practitioners.



T U B E R C U L O S I S

New Cases and Mortality during 1943.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0.								
1.			2					
5		1.	2	5				
15		6.	1.		1	1		
25	9	5		1	2	2		
35	6	5			2			
45	3	2			2	3		
55	1	1						
65 and over	1							
Totals	20	20	5	6	7	6	-	-

There were no deaths of non-notified cases.

No action has been called for under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925, or under Sec. 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

(Signed) ARTHUR MORGAN,

M.A., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

